



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

August 4, 2011

The Honorable Isiah Leggett
Montgomery County Executive
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett:

The Upcounty County Citizen's Advisory Board held its Capital Budget Forum on July 13, 2011 for the purpose of receiving input for the FY 2013–18 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The forum was well attended by residents and representatives of various county agencies. We also received public comments via mail and e-mail. Based on the information we have received, we submit the following recommendations for your consideration.

Transportation and Infrastructure

- Further study of the Mid-County Corridor is recommended —this is an issue in which the community has not reached a consensus on a final plan. Of the several alternatives currently under study there is significant opposition to Alternative 4, citing the impact on current residents, environmental and historical repercussion and higher cost. Residents of Montgomery Village support no build, travel demand management, or MD 355 options. Clarksburg residents are eager for an alternative to the congested routes currently available.
- Residents of the upcounty are almost in complete agreement for moving ahead with the planned Corridor Cities Transitway. There is still no consensus as to light rail or rapid bus transit or other means, only that the CCT needs to move ahead.
- Improvements should be made to the bike, pedestrian and vehicular access to the Boyds MARC station to enhance safety and facilitate passenger access.
- Improvements should be made to Stringtown Road. Funds have been allocated for the design study which was scheduled to begin in July. Recommendations from the study, especially those that will improve safety, should be brought forward for construction funding.
- Maintaining funding in the Snouffer School Road area to accommodate the planned county service facilities relocating to the Webb tract is recommended.
- Upgrades to the County's traffic management system to ensure that technology is optimized and functions are made in a timely manner are recommended.

Public Safety

- The citizens of the upcounty are extremely grateful for the two new fire stations in Germantown and the temporary station has provided much needed service to Clarksburg. As soon as funding becomes available, the permanent Clarksburg Fire station should be built and operations relocated from the leased space to the permanent site.
- Continuation of support for the construction of a new 6th district police station in the upcounty (along with the extension of Watkins Mill Road) is recommended.

Schools

- Excellent public schools are a hallmark of our county and our public schools' national reputation continues to be a primary motivating factor for young families and businesses moving into our community. In that context, we urge you to support the modernization of our public school facilities by working collaboratively with the Board of Education to undertake capital projects that will maintain the quality of our schools. As an area of strong population growth, the upcounty will require a new middle school (Arora Hills) and other expansion/modernization projects soon.

Libraries

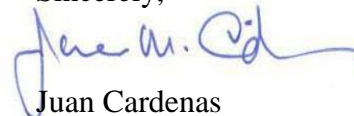
- It is our understanding that delays caused by storm water issues and permits have been resolved and that construction of the Gaithersburg Library can proceed. Residents eagerly hope a builder is selected in August and that construction begins in September. Although a significant effort, the temporary library does not provide all the library resources needed. UCAB recommends moving quickly to complete this project.
- The Clarksburg library is one of six in the CIP. It is strongly encouraged that by 2015 there will be an appropriation for the Clarksburg Library.

Parks and Recreation

- Continuation of funding for the Germantown Town Center Urban Park and the Darnestown Square Heritage Park is needed in order to maintain the current schedules.
- Funding for design and construction of the Magruder Trail from Damascus Recreational Park to the Damascus town center is supported.
- Timely development of the Seneca Crossing Park on the 26 acres donated to the county for that purpose is strongly recommended.

The Upcounty Citizen's Advisory Board and the citizens of the upcounty region appreciate the opportunity to offer these recommendations. I look forward to meeting with you on August 23.

Sincerely,



Juan Cardenas
Chair